

AUSTRALIAN

flying saucer

REVIEW

VICTORIAN
EDITION

An abstract line drawing of a flying saucer, or UFO, is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the cover. The saucer is depicted with a circular body, a smaller circular detail on its side, and a larger circular element on its top surface. Several thin, curved lines radiate from the saucer, suggesting motion or a signal. The entire drawing is rendered in black lines on the reddish-brown background.

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Australian

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VICTORIAN EDITION.

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EDITORIAL.

The publication of NICAP'S, "The UFO Evidence", (reviewed in this issue) will no doubt result in some stocktaking being done in UFO research groups about what has been achieved by such groups during the past seventeen years that flying saucers (as such) have been with us.

"The UFO Evidence" puts together in the one volume virtually everything that is known about UFO'S--and this is a very great deal indeed. To those of us who have now believed in the reality of the UFO for more than a decade, this publication has the effect of reinforcing everything we have long believed to be true; that this planet is being visited by spaceships, piloted by intelligent beings, from a source, or sources that are still unknown to us, and for a purpose, or purposes still unresolved.

When we take stock of what we research groups have accomplished, we must conclude that we have done a vast amount of very valuable work in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data pertaining to UFO sightings; but, I feel, there is still a vast amount to be done:-

(a) There can only be a small percentage of the people of the world who have given serious study to the mystery of the UFO. We must continue in our endeavours to educate people to a spirit of enquiry into the UFO mystery.

(b) We must fight with renewed effort to have the blank wall of officialdom borne down by the weight of numbers of those who believe that what is known by governments about UFO'S should be available to all.

Paul Norman's excellent article in this issue is typical of the concern that is felt when we are given Air Force analyses of UFO sightings which constitute an affront to our intelligence. The people have every right to know what has been found out about visitors from other planets by our officials for they are matters of optimum concern to the people no matter what we are told to the contrary.

To read the mountain of evidence for the existence of UFO'S that has been assembled by NICAP and then to be confronted with the following shows just how great is the gap still to be bridged before the truth will be available to all. "The U.S. Air Force asserts that no evidence has been submitted in any of the thousands of cases that any new technological developments or scientific principles were involved that go beyond the range of present day knowledge. And it says that in all of its investigations there has been nothing produced in the way of evidence to suggest that these unidentified flying objects were extraterrestrial vehicles under intelligent control" (The Christian Science Monitor, 8/9/64).

What then does the U.S. Air Force think they are?

GREAT EVENT IN SAUCER RESEARCH.

PUBLICATION BY NICAP OF "THE UFO EVIDENCE".

"The UFO Evidence". Published by The National Investigations Committee On Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), 1536 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington, 36, D.C. Richard Hall, Editor. May, 1964.

We have no way of knowing when the mystery of what the flying saucers are, where they come from and why they are so interested in this planet, will be revealed to the people of Earth; it may be next year, the next decade, the next century or the one after that, or it may not be resolved until Man has progressed sufficiently so that he has mastered a means of travel which will take him across the galaxies of the Universe as easily as he is now able to cross the continents. When the mystery is solved in full I wonder what then will be the attitude of future historians to the way in which the people of Earth regarded the whole flying saucer question in the years after 1947 when these objects first attracted public attention. How will these writers of some enlightened future day regard Man's abysmal ignorance and fear and plain lack of interest in the obvious signs of the greatest event in his history - an imminent meeting with people of other planets. How will the future regard the reprehensible attitude of governments in with-holding the true facts about flying saucers from the citizens who elected them to office; their glib cover-up stories given out with an implied, "We're the only ones capable of handling this business so you keep your interfering noses out of it." What will be thought of the whole rotten, mercenary business of contacteeism, New Age spiritualism, meetings with angels, rides to Venus, marriage to beautiful spacewomen and the inevitable books about them which have helped to create in the minds of many, a perverted image of the flying saucer field. Our imaginary future historian will, no doubt, have many scathing things to say about the early days of flying saucers but he will, I am sure, regard the publication in May, 1964, of NICAP'S "The UFO Evidence" as the sanest statement, up to the time, of what was known about saucers that had ever appeared.

"The UFO Evidence" is a sober, authoritative account of everything that is known about UFO's and it is a staggering, monumental and utterly convincing body of evidence, 183 large, quarto-size pages of it. It has been published to help bring about a Congressional hearing on the subject of UFO's. This is the aim towards which NICAP has striven since its inception in late 1956. A copy of "The UFO Evidence" has been sent to every Member of Congress and all readers of it (in U.S.A.) are asked to write to their own Senators and Congressmen in an attempt to force an open hearing. If after surveying the vast amount of incontrovertible evidence prepared by NICAP, a full investigation is not carried out it amounts to nothing less than a public scandal of immense proportions. If the U.S.

Airforce and other U.S. Government bodies have evidence that this planet is being visited by spacecraft from other planets and have kept this evidence secret for whatever reasons, then they have a vast amount to account for. Why, if as the U.S. Airforce has insisted with monotonous regularity, they have no such evidence, are their records still classified as Secret and not open to public inspection. A body of evidence like this on every conceivable aspect of UFO performance simply cannot be denied or passed over without similarly incontrovertible counter-evidence being presented. The only means that exists for clarification is an open hearing at the highest possible official level and the sooner the better for all concerned.

A vast amount of detailed research has gone into the compilation of this report and everyone connected with NICAP deserves the unstinting praise of all connected with UFO research for the preparation of a document which will do much to help place this whole matter on a more unequivocal footing. At last we have a book which we can put into the hands of anyone who professes skepticism about the objective reality of UFO's and say, "Read this and if you still disbelieve that there is anything there in the skies of Earth that is not of this Earth then I can feel nothing but pity for the smallness of a mind which cannot encompass a new orientation. As the authors say at the conclusion of the book, "If delusion is the answer to UFO's, then our whole society is deluded". I would venture to add that if this is the case humanity is suffering from a horrific disease the like of which has never been seen before; a mass psychosis on such a vast scale that the mind cannot grasp all the ramifications of it. No, there is no such disease or delusion, only spacecraft from we know not where in our skies.

This report is based on details of 575 sightings with others included in separate chronologies and as cross references to the main sightings. 50% of the witnesses to these sightings were trained or experienced observers. The book is divided into 14 sections which deal exhaustively with such matters as, statistics and analyses of consistent physical appearance, maneuvers, flight characteristics, recurrent concentrations; cases indicating intelligence, pacing of vehicles, reaction to stimuli, formation flights; sightings by scientists, engineers, pilots, military personnel, police officers, civil defense and ground observer corps; the Air Force investigation and much more. There is nothing here that is not fact, checked and double-checked - there is no speculation, conjecture, subjective opinions, nothing is offered without proof. The test is excellently printed and is illustrated with many drawings, charts, graphs etc. It is in every way the definitive test book on UFO's.

NICAP has often been criticised in some of the less reliable saucer publications who are perhaps envious of the

contacts and resources which NICAP has; they have certainly been criticised for their refusal to jump on the bandwagon of contacteeism and make themselves some publicity, and of course, the resultant fast buck. To quote from the Introduction, "This report is an attempt to clarify the reliable evidence of UFO's, and to remove the fog of mysticism and crackpotism which has helped to obscure the real issues. "They continue, "Diverse beliefs----are being expounded by many cults, including many individuals who use the UFO subject for the purpose of self-enrichment at the expense of an ill-informed public." (Vide: my earlier remarks) NICAP have thoroughly investigated the claims of people who have been alleged to have had contacts with spacepeople and to have undertaken rides in flying saucers." "Our investigations have found no evidence to support these claims, but considerable evidence of fraud. This does not mean that we believe a meeting with spacemen is impossible. It merely means that the public is being misled by some unscrupulous individuals making these claims, whose false stories are beclouding serious evidence." I could not agree more with these sentiments. Here lies a good deal of the reason why the lay public associates flying saucers with some sort of esoteric spiritualism. All this, you must agree, will be a fruitful field of research for our mythical future historian. To quote from the report again, "In any normal situation, no one would question the sanity and reliability of the group of witnesses named in this report. But the UFO problem because it is controversial, and because mystical or crackpot UFO groups are publicized all out of proportion, appears to be a special case. Unthinking skeptics often take the easy way out by assuming that there must be 'something wrong' with people who report UFO's. The notion that UFO reports originate with a small group of cultists, or crackpots, or any other small and uniform segment of our society, is refuted by the reports in this document." This report will help immeasurably to undo the harm that has been done to authentic saucer research by the lunatic fringe.

All who are concerned about getting down to the truth about flying saucers should see that this publication is read by as many people as possible, particularly those who are in responsible positions and those who have at their disposal the means of disseminating information. They should write to their parliamentary representatives and put before them the facts so that something may be done in this and other countries to end the present barrier of secrecy that exists. But first you must read it for yourself and I would urge you to do that without delay. (Ian H. Godden).

OFFICIALDOM AND THE FLYING SAUCER

By Paul Norman.

Why does officialdom continue a "cover-up policy" with regard to flying saucers? To realize this, one needs only to

examine the official explanations. While flying saucers are explained to the public as nonsense, most governments are engaged in a program of research and label them Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's). Let's look at a few explanations.

The crew of a Canadian destroyer reported two such objects. The Navy report revealed the objects to be two miles high and seven miles away. These strange machines were sighted visually and recorded on radar. The explanation: "The Planet Jupiter"! The fact that Jupiter doesn't come in pairs and was several million miles out of radar range seemed to be beside the point. Thus, officialdom leaps great gulfs of logic to increase the percentage of explained sightings.

Missile men at a base in Maryland, N.J., reported a brief landing and takeoff of a UFO. To kill increasing interest in the subject the American Air Force rushed out an official explanation: "Light from welder's torch..... - power company crew repairing power line tower". A check with the power company revealed "No power line even in need of repair". The Air Force then rushed out a substitute official explanation: "Flood lights on a farmer's barn". A search was then made of the area by people desiring to know the facts and the only structure found was not even wired for electricity!

A maneuvering object was investigated by the police patrol near Red Bluff, California. As the patrol reached the vicinity, their radio faded as description of the object was being radioed to headquarters. This object was 500 feet high sweeping the ground with a search light. As the patrol car drew near the **mysterious craft** raced away. The official explanation: "The planet Mars". An astronomical check revealed the planet Mars at time of sighting was still below the horizon!

The well known sighting of Father Gill together with 35 other witnesses over a Pacific island, when humanoid forms waved at the group from top deck, was officially declared to be the Planet Venus. Another sighting by the Rev. Browning when disc shaped objects approached a cigar shaped mother ship over Tasmania, was officially explained as the Moon. More and more people everywhere are beginning to question this remarkable ability of the Air Force to maneuver the celestial bodies at will.

In the past, many sightings have been reported by Commercial Air Line Pilots, but now pilots are silenced by threat of fine and imprisonment. After putting these newly made regulations into force, the American Air Force issued a press release that reports of sightings were on the decline. At a meeting of Air Line Pilots in protest against this regulation, one pilot speaking for the group said: "We are forced to report these sightings through official channels with top radio priority from anywhere in the world. Then when we land we are met by top ranking

intelligence officers and are questioned on into the night when we are tired and anxious to get home to our families. When we have reported all details of the sightings we are warned to keep quiet and reminded of the fine and imprisonment and told the thing which trailed us for fifteen minutes was a bolt of lightning! Nuts to that; who needs this Big Brother attitude?"

In spite of all these cover-up attempts, the facts are slowly but surely leaking out. Professor Hermann Oberth, the Father of modern rocketry and co-designer of the V2, indicates that the theory which best fits all descriptions of the flying saucer is the Artificially Created Gravitational Field by means of electro magnetism.

This G. Field theory would explain the maneuverability of the objects, i.e., hovering in mid-air 90 degree turns without changing speed and sudden take-offs without acceleration.

The theory explains the silence of the objects since a G-field would pull air along with the object. It explains the change in color with a strong variable magnetic field bending the light rays and also why the objects interfere with radio, T.V. and electrical equipment when near such apparatus.

One example of this effect on ignition was in November, 1957, when several motor cars stalled as a large cigar shaped craft passed low over a highway. As interest and curiosity soared, the Air Force put out the following explanation: "The object was a mirage. The car ignitions failed from dampness". An ideal explanation if the cars had been fording a river. Just why all cars restarted immediately after the object sped away was not explained. The reason given by Professor Menzel of Harvard University, was that the feet of nervous drivers flooded carburettors when they spotted the "mirage". It is true that carburettors are sometimes flooded when an attempt is made to start a motor but after the engine is once running, one could pump the accelerator constantly, resulting in no more than the engine speeding or slowing down, and the chain of coincidences necessary to stall so many cars at one time is more fantastic than admitting the truth. Such an explanation leads one to ponder whether some of our professors have not discarded their text books which teach that space rockets are impossible because there is nothing to push against and tell all about why the atom cannot be split. Either the professor is trying to assist officialdom with a cover-up campaign or else belongs to another era.

A study of the history of inventions and fresh ideas reveals an interesting story concerning the fathers of orthodoxy. The technical field abounds with humorous examples even if we omit mention of Louis Pasteur in the medical and other fields and the Billy Mitchells of pre-aircraft days.

When the Wright brothers made their first flight of 124 feet there were only five witnesses because the fathers of orthodoxy were certain the flight would be impossible. The newspapers thought the report of the flight was too absurd to print, and two weeks after the event took place the leading scientific journal of the day printed a dozen reasons why the contraption could not fly.

As the phonograph of Edison was being demonstrated before the Academy of Science in Paris for the first time, one of the members became angry, leapt to his feet and shouted, "The demonstrating engineer is a fraud and a ventriloquist."

At the best orthodoxy is only the space between steps.

With officialdom it is not a question of 'Do flying saucers exist', but rather 'Whither, whence and why'. And while this article is being written, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (N.A.S.A.) is nearing completion of a space probe to Mars to determine whether the two tiny moons are natural or artificial. Prior to 1877 during the close approach of this planet, world wide observations were made by earth's largest telescopes and no moons of Mars were seen, but in 1877, the tiny moons were observed through the smallest telescopes. Officialdom knows that if the satellites prove to be artificial, that a civilization which could hurl space stations into orbit in 1877, would be capable of sending space ships to earth in 1947.

Another forthcoming probe will compare the time of an atomic clock on earth against an atomic clock aboard a speeding rocket to prove or disprove the Related Time Theory of Dr. Einstein.

Perhaps 1964-65 will determine whether the source of flying saucers is far or near - or both!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Any reader of Paul Norman's article who is interested in studying further examples of the incredible lack of foresight of 'the fathers of orthodoxy' is referred to Arthur C. Clarke's fascinating work "Profiles of the Future" (Gollancz, 1962. Ausn. price 29/9). Clarke has some very pertinent comments to make on these matters in Chapter I, "Hazards of Prophecy: The Failure of Nerve" and Chapter II, "Hazards of Prophecy: The Failure of Imagination". On Edison for example, Clarke says that in 1878, when Edison was working on the incandescent lamp, The British Parliament set up a committee to look into the matter and found that Edison's ideas were "good enough for our transatlantic friendsbut unworthy of the attention of practical or scientific men". Thus a mere eighty years ago our fathers of orthodoxy thought the electric light to be of no more significance than the plaything of an erratic genius.

Clarke is particularly good on some of the predictions of so-called experts about the outcome of experimental work in aero- and astronautics. He quotes the eminent American astronomer, Simon Newcomb, who concluded an essay with these rather less than percipient words, "The demonstration that no possible combination of known substances, known forms of machinery and known forms of force, can be united in a practical machine by which men shall fly long distances through the air seems to the writer as complete as it is possible for the demonstration of any physical fact to be."

The widely publicised prognostications of the current crop of fathers of orthodoxy on the subject of flying saucers are too familiar to readers to be worth reiterating. If there is an early solution of the UFO enigma there will certainly be some red faces and dented reputations among the 'officials' about whom Mr. Norman writes.

Further Note: Since the above was written a paperback edition of Clarke's book has been published here by Pan Books Limited at 6/-.

----- REMARKABLE UFO SIGHTING IN N.Z.

Many readers will recall the significant sighting made in Tasmania a few years ago by Rev. Lionel Browning. A New Zealand woman who read a newspaper account of it later wrote the following letter to him giving a most remarkable first-hand report of a sighting which she made in 1959. The full account has not been published here before and is of unusual interest. We are indebted to Rev. Browning and his son David, a V.F.S.R.S. Committeeman, for the following account which is reported in the words of the witness, Mrs. F. E. Moreland of Blenheim, N.Z.

On July 13th, 1959, I saw a flying saucer, very close to me, and it is something I will never forget. I have a small farmlet of nine acres and milk cows. At that time I supplied milk to the town of Blenheim, and as the lorry came to pick up the milk at 6.30 a.m. and I was the first on the run, it meant that I had always to be up by 5 a.m. This particular Monday morning, I got up as usual and went to milk. After lighting the steam sterilizer and switching on the lights and the radio, I took the torch and set off across the paddock to get the cows which were bedded down beneath a row of pine trees along the boundary fence.

The morning was very cold with a hard frost and a heavy bank of cloud which was estimated later at about 2,000 feet. As I went, I noticed a greenish glow in the cloud and at first thought it must be the moon, until I realised it was the wrong side of the sky for the moon. While I was looking, I saw two green lights like eyes

suddenly break through the cloud and realised they were coming towards the ground. I looked around me and noticed that everything was lit up by a peculiar greenish light so penetratingly clear that every twig on the row of peach trees running through the centre of the paddock was very clearly defined, as was every blade of grass and every dried thistle stalk. I looked down at myself and realised that I was lit by this weird green glow too. Something told me, 'I shouldn't be here' and I pelted for the pine trees and galloping among the cows, which were also clearly lit up, I dived behind a tree and turned to look back. By this time the lights had come to within a few feet of the ground and I was horrified to see a large flying ship hovering only a few yards from me. It was a large circular, ungainly affair. As it drifted slowly to within a few feet of the ground I noticed that it had two bands of jets around it which stuck out all round it like the rays of the sun. When the ship stopped, the flames disappeared. The two bands began whirling at high speed, one one way and one the other, and this was accompanied by a low humming sound. The top was of clear perspex, plexiglass or some similar clear stuff and was lit up with a clear white light. I then noticed that there were two figures seated in the cabin. They were dressed similarly in almost skin-tight silvery suits like aluminium foil which gave off little points of light like aluminium does if it is crumpled and held under a light. Huge helmets covered their heads and took in almost from one shoulder tip to the other. Suddenly the rear figure stood up and leaned forward onto his hands and looked at something in front of him. There was a flickering light which was lighting up the figure in front, but I could not see what it was. It has been suggested that it was a radar screen. Suddenly the rear figure sat down, the ship tilted slightly, the bands of jets stopped whirling, disappeared, then reappeared in the fixed sun's rays position, and then shot straight up into the sky at a speed that had to be seen to be believed, and with a high pitched shriek which was most unnerving. After a moment the air around me became noticeably warmer and there was a strong smell like burning pepper which seemed to stick in my throat for hours.

It was a terrible experience and one which I hope never to endure again.

----- FLYING SAUCERS AND SCIENCE FICTION

by
Ian H. Godden.

I have never yet met an unimaginative, petty-minded person who believed in the objective reality of flying saucers. Most readers and writers of that provocative branch of literature known as science fiction could not be called less than imaginative.

Why is it then that most science fiction readers and writers scoff at those who believe flying saucers to be intelligently controlled spacecraft from another world?

To believe that we could be (and in fact are) being visited by sentient beings from somewhere beyond the Earth needs an unfettered and far-sweeping mind; a mind that is open too, to judge evidence on its merits and not sweep it under the convenient rug of rationalisation; it needs a mind that is not so presumptuous as to believe that a vast Universe exists solely for us to occupy; a mind prepared to accept that somewhere there will be civilizations so far in advance of ours as to be, in all probability, incomprehensible to one which is still in short pants.

The philistine fears what he does not understand and will make no attempt to understand it for fear that it will upset the apple-cart of his comfortable conventionality. Thus the ranks of the philistine are pretty ragged in flying saucer research where strong and open minds are required qualifications. I refer now only to those who are genuinely trying to discover the facts about flying saucers, not the lunatic fringe (often wider than a mere fringe too) of cranks and cultists and those camp-followers who make money out of exploiting them. (The law of supply and demand operates here as elsewhere. If people want flying saucer evidence badly enough they'll get it. Some 'nice' contact stories have filled the bill here. All of which bedevil the issue for the genuine seeker after truth and the curious layman.)

It seems to me then that readers of science fiction need the same qualities of mind as do those who are prepared to believe in flying saucers. They are both the antithesis of someone with his mind comfortably buried in the trivia of 'here and now'. Why is there not more overlap between the two fields? Are flying saucer believers afraid to admit to a liking for science fiction for fear of being accused of making fact out of fiction? How can "Galaxy", (one of the best S.F. magazines in U.S.) run a laudatory review of Dr. Menzel's latest book on saucer debunking? Why is Patrick Moore able to have his space travellers in fiction, but to have an attack of desperate 'explaining away' if he finds factual evidence of their existence? Vide: the Wiltshire Crater affair. May S.F. writers be interested in saucers but reluctant to admit to it for fear of 'unsavoury associations' losing them readership?

There is no doubt anyway that both fields are much maligned by those who speak only out of ignorance of either. I think that an interest in either of these fields leads naturally enough to an interest in the other.

Let us now examine what two leading British writers of science fiction have to say about saucers.

Eric Frank Russell, now nearing his sixties, wrote his

first science fiction in the thirties at the instigation of Leslie J. Johnson, one of the founders of the British Interplanetary Society. Russell's education and work were such as to give a firm scientific background to his writing. One of his greatest influences was the legendary Charles Fort whose book, "Lo" produced the idea for the plot of Russell's best known story, "Sinister Barrier" first published in 1939. Since then Fort's books have provided source material for countless science fiction stories. These four works of the eponymous Fort are required reading for those with an interest in saucers too. It is highly probable that Russell's close reading of Fort introduced him to unidentified flying objects. In 1957 Russell published, "Great World Mysteries" (a copy of which is in the V.F.S.R.S. library) which contained a chapter on what he calls, 'Gadgets in the Sky'. Russell's trenchant style and wide knowledge has produced one of the best and most succinct accounts of the flying saucer mystery (to that date) that can be found anywhere, and to my acquaintance is some of the best writing on saucers by an S.F. writer. Before the rapier-like thrust of his pen there fall, revealed for the fools and phonies they really are, the self-styled scientists and authorities, the so-called saucer 'experts' and the bogus saucer writers who give flying saucer research such a bad name. But Russell believes that many saucer sightings are inexplicable in ordinary terms and that they represent alien space travellers in some type of space-craft. It is an article refreshingly free from the distressing cant of so much writing on the subject. It pleases me greatly to know that the writer is a leading science fiction practitioner.

Arthur C. Clarke is one of the world's best known writers of science fact and fiction. Now in his middle forties, Clarke has had published more than thirty books on factual science topics and science fiction novels and stories. Of Clarke's many achievements in the field of science the most notable was the winning of the 1962 Kalinga Prize, awarded by UNESCO for the popularization of science. This placed Clarke in the company of Julian Huxley and Bertrand Russell, who are among previous winners.

Clarke was a radar expert with the R.A.F. between 1941 and 1946; he has twice been chairman of the British Interplanetary Society which he first joined in 1934, a short time after its beginning; he is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society; he is known throughout America and England as lecturer and broadcaster on scientific matters; he is an authority on underwater photography and exploration; he is one of the best S.F. writers with the emphasis on the science; his "The Exploration of Space" (1951) is one of the most widely read of the many popular books on space travel, and was the first book of this nature to enjoy a Book-Of-The-Month-Club award in U.S.A. You must agree then that Clarke has the qualifications to make worthwhile

comment about flying saucers. What he does, in fact, have to say is most interesting but not very sympathetic to the saucer cause.

He believes that there are indeed Unidentified Flying Objects, but that they can all be explained as various natural phenomena viewed under unusual conditions resulting in the viewers mistaking them for 'flying saucers'.

Clarke admits to seeing several 'flying saucers' himself, all of which he has been able to explain to his own satisfaction. He was in Australia about ten years ago to do underwater research along the Great Barrier Reef. From an office window in Brisbane he made a sighting of a 'line of brilliant silver discs' which appeared metallic and oscillated 'with a regular seesaw motion'. Flying Saucers? No, merely seagulls reflecting the setting sun with their under-surfaces.

He made another sighting in Sydney when standing at the north end of the Harbour Bridge looking towards the city. He observed a single, dark cloud floating motionless in a strong breeze. After studying it through binoculars he came to the conclusion that it was produced by some gas escaping from a factory chimney and then condensing a hundred feet or so downwind in the same manner that steam condenses near the spout of a kettle.

Of Clarke's several sightings one other is worthy of mention. In October, 1958, he was in a 'plane approaching Naples when he, and other passengers, noticed a brilliant oval of light, of solid appearance, keeping pace with the 'plane a few thousand feet below it. He observed it until it disintegrated. Verdict: a mock sun or 'sundog' formed by an invisible layer of ice crystals each reflecting the sun's rays.

Clarke agrees that such objects sighted under unusual conditions produce many saucer reports. He agrees too that there is left a hard core of sightings which are apparently inexplicable. He takes care of these by placing them all within the province of the new science of magnetohydrodynamics which deals with the movement of electrified gases in magnetic fields. An aurora is caused by electrified particles from the Sun which produce, in the Earth's atmosphere, a type of fluorescence. Clarke believes that many 'saucers' are really the strange shapes of the aurora caused by the Earth's magnetic field which has a focusing effect on particles, directing them toward the poles.

Clarke is a man of profound intelligence and wide imagination. What would his reaction be if he saw something in the sky which he could not explain? I wonder how he would get around a sighting such as Father Gill's?

I have already mentioned how Fort's four books have

provided the inspiration for numerous science fiction stories. It is interesting to find that a well known saucer book has been the *raison d'être* for an intriguing science fiction story. The young English writer J. G. Ballard is one of the most brilliant talents working in the field at the moment. His short story, "The Encounter" was published in the American magazine "Amazing Stories" in June, 1963. This story is obviously based on Adamski and his experience of meeting a Venusian as described in, "Flying Saucers Have Landed". In Ballard's story Adamski has become 'Kandinski' and Mt. Palomar is now 'Mt. Vernon', but the details tally closely with Adamski. The story centres around one Dr. Andrew Ward from the Observatory, and his growing acquaintance with and belief in Kandinski and his story of meeting with a Venusian who left behind a series of 'cryptograms' to be solved. (Readers will recall the hieroglyphics of the real Adamski tale). Ward reads Kandinski's book (which made only 150 dollars because the reviews were unfavourable. "People who read science fiction apparently dislike flying saucers and everyone else dismissed him as a lunatic") and attends one of his lectures where he makes Kandinski look a fool because he tells him publicly that a sixth moon of Uranus has recently been discovered. This happens just after Kandinski has told his audience that the Venusian he had met had told him Uranus had five moons. The climax comes when Ward is about to address the Twenty third Congress of the International Geophysical Association at the Observatory. He gets a phone call from a highly excited Kandinski telling him to join him as another space-ship has landed. Ward goes and sees what Kandinski sees, and of course, loses his job. Ballard leaves us to decide for ourselves whether there was really a space-craft there or whether Kandinski needed someone to share a private vision with. Ballard is apparently as curious as we are about the reality of Adamski's purported experience.

Space precludes me from continuing further this account of how science fiction writers view the saucer field. I must conclude by saying that I believe that reading science fiction will probably be a rewarding experience for the type of person who is interested in the enigma of the flying saucers. I would welcome the views of any readers of this article on this matter.

BOOK REVIEWS.

"The Sky People", by Brinsley Le Poer Trench. Neville Spearman, London, 1960.

To quote from the inside flap of this book by a well known writer on saucers and allied subjects and a former editor of "Flying Saucer Review", "This is the fascinating story of the Sky People who have been visiting our planet for millions of years.

You will learn from this startling, but scholarly book that Apollo, Hermes, Prometheus and other Greek Gods, together with Egyptian deity, Osiris and the Biblical Angels, were all visitors from Outer Space."

They came down to Earth and mingled with mortals, bringing much-needed light and wisdom at critical periods in our history. Subsequently, after their withdrawal they were worshipped as Gods, which they did not desire.

The whole of history seems to pass before the reader's eyes through the pages of this absorbing book. Immense research has gone into its preparation and the author has reached some remarkable conclusions.

His researches indicate:-

- (a) That the Garden of Eden was on another planet.
- (b) The Sun is a cool body and all the planets have an equable climate.
- (c) The real identity of the two angels who visited Lot in Sodom, and went into his house and did talk, wash and eat.
- (d) That the Earth is going through another critical period in its chequered history. That we are approaching most momentous times and that our extra-terrestrial visitors are coming back here once more in their space craft.

Indeed, during the last twelve years hundreds of thousands of people all over the world have sighted these ships of light. They have been photographed, filmed and tracked on radar innumerable times.

In the author's own words: "Yes, the occupants of these craft have always been with you. They are with you now, although you pass by in the street without noticing them--your friends, The Sky People."

I found this a thoroughly enjoyable book with some astounding views on the two types of Adamic man and the Serpent People, and the family of Jehovas. Not a book for people with orthodox views, but definitely providing much food for thought. There is enough material here for half a dozen more books. Well worth reading. (T.S.H. MILWARD.)

"The Flying Saucer" by Bernard Newman, Gollancz, London, 1948.

This review is unusual in two respects:- (a) it refers to a work of fiction (b) the book concerned was published 16 years ago. It is included here because, as its title indicates, it is about saucers and I am writing about it now because it only recently came to my notice.

The author, Bernard Newman, is a veteran writer with a prolific output of mystery stories, thrillers, travel books and books on current affairs and political commentary to mention only some of his varied spheres of activity.

This somewhat improbable story concerns a hoax of gigantic proportions which is perpetrated on the world's people in the most laudable cause of world unity. The plot is based on a remark attributed to Mr. (as he was then) Anthony Eden, when Prime Minister of England, to the effect that the nations of the world would only be united when faced with a common enemy; thus what was needed was an invasion from Mars. The hero of the story, Drummond, a brilliant and wealthy English scientist, formulates a grandiose plan to stage an attack by Martians to frighten the world out of its cold war and into a warm unanimity.

This he does by building rockets of advanced design and firing them from a ship at sea to land on strategic parts of the Earth's surface (without injuring anyone). They contain messages which are alleged to be from the inhabitants of Mars who demand that Earth hand over all its gold reserves. When this is not done, a 'protonic' bomb is exploded with spectacular results in a forested region of Southern Russia. By this time the United Nations delegates have forgotten about their petty parochial differences, and have been instrumental in forming a World Government.

Where do flying saucers fit into all this? Mr. Newman must have worked out the plot for this book not long after the world-wide spate of saucer sightings following Kenneth Arnold's initial sighting in mid-1947, which led the American Press to label these phenomena Flying Saucers. Clearly Mr. Newman does not for a moment believe these reports; to him they are red corpuscles passing in front of the eyes and mass hallucination, but he has cunningly used these flying saucer reports in his work of fiction. (Hoping, no doubt, to cash in on the interest there was at the time in these reports). His line of reasoning is that because of publicity the people of the world are expecting visitors from other worlds which makes the Martian invasion plot easy to foist on the world.

The book ends with the world under the progressive rule of a League of Scientists and flying saucers still being reported from all over the globe. I wonder what Mr. Newman thinks of the UFO enigma after a further 15 years of continued sightings.

I am inclined to think that the hoax which forms the basis of this story is no more elaborate than The Great Flying Saucer Hoax (to borrow Coral Lorenzon's phrase); this is the hoax which Governments have perpetrated on the world's people by telling them that flying saucers do not exist when they know full well that they do. No doubt the many Governments believe, like the hero of Newman's story, that they are acting for the common good; whether they are or not is a matter of opinion.

(IAN H. GODDEN)

A FIERCE NEW LOOK AT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

By Paul Norman.

The recent sightings of unidentified pulsating objects manoeuvring in the skies of Victoria have given additional evidence that UFO's, commonly called "flying saucers" are gravity powered space ships and Australian Parkes Radio Telescope is now playing a key role in a new discovery which may lead to the secret of inter-planetary propulsion for space ships.

Understanding the nature of gravity and its role in the Universe may be near at hand due to evidence now coming from far out into space 1500 million light years away and from the mysterious flying saucers being sighted in our atmosphere all over the world.

Gravity is the most familiar and yet the most mysterious force known to mankind. We do not know what it is, we do know that whatever it is, gravity is a very potent force indeed.

For many years UFO researchers have been reporting that the flying saucers are gravity powered, nuclear powered, electric powered and light powered space ships capable of shifting from any of these forces to the other at will. The researchers have long explained that the unknown observers have solved the problem of gravity and have some unknown means of controlling gravity. But the pulsations many times observed when the strange machines manoeuvred through the air remained one of the most mysterious manifestations until only a few days ago.

A surprising new clue came to flying saucer research from an unexpected source - none other than famous English Astronomer Fred Hoyle and mathematician Dr. Vishnu Norikor, neither of whom may realise the full implications and significance of their disclosure.

For the past few months astronomers have been stunned with the startling new discovery of the QUASARS or QUASI-STARS. Radio astronomers working with the new Parkes Radio Telescope pinpointed the position of one of these super stars called 3C-773. Its position was sent to Palomar's 200 inch telescope in California where a photograph was made.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Society of Astronomers, Hoyle made an unexpected disclosure --- "These newly found stars," he said, "must be gravity powered, and if gravity powered, it becomes important to understand gravity properly". Hoyle pointed out what UFO researchers have been trying for years to get before the general public, including the scientific world, and that is "the mathematical formula used by the late Dr. Einstein to describe

gravity could just as well describe anti-gravity by a simple change of a minus sign to a plus sign."

Toward the end of his announcement, Professor Hoyle suggested "that X-Ray telescopes be launched into orbit for better observations," followed by a statement which should send every open minded scientist to the files of UFO research groups everywhere to review the thousands of observed cases of pulsating flying objects from all over the world.

Listen to Hoyle carefully: "If these stars are gravity powered they will be found to be pulsating ... and should be throbbing about once each second." While this statement was made with reference to stars, it revealed a characteristic that gravity power would have. When the performance of UFO's operating in our skies was first reported, orthodoxy loudly and widely proclaimed the usual impossibilities, i.e. "Such fantastic speeds would melt the metal by friction" ... "No being could withstand the sudden stops in mid-air nor the instantaneous acceleration". "Earthly intelligence has not devised anti-gravity control, therefore hovering in mid-air is impossible." "Such performance is unknown to science therefore it doesn't exist." etc. etc. etc.

Most all of our inventions have been the result of natural observation. Such as: Man first thought of flying when observing the birds. The arch in a bridge adds greater strength like the arch in the foot. Spectroscopes duplicate the simple rainbow.

The Briquette works at Morwell and Yallourn duplicate nature to make black coal from brown by compression, because Nature failed to provide sufficient overburden for sufficient pressure when the earth was in upheaval in this area. And alongside the open cuts, the great power stations of the Latrobe Valley are generating and transmitting energy which was first observed in Nature. Then there is sonar used by submarines to detect underwater objects; the common bat used it all along. Volumes could be written on the role Nature has played in ideas for inventions of mankind.

The gravitational field of the flying saucers is also duplication of Nature. While we do not know the principle involved in this duplication as yet, we do know some of the reactions and effects once this duplication is achieved.

The changing colour is explained as the machines perform superior aerial feats, by a simple law of vision. The longest light rays appear to our eyes as red. Any longer wave lengths pass beyond our sight into the infra red band of the spectrum. The shortest light rays appear to our eyes as the colour of violet. Any shorter wave lengths pass beyond our vision into the

ultra violet band of the spectrum.

The influence of gravity on light has been pointed out by astronomers as they observe the stars. Therefore, the G-field of the flying saucer is variable and strong enough to affect the frequency of the light waves which explains both gravity control and colour change of the object.

The G-field explanation accounts for the reason the craft can withstand the friction at the fantastic speeds which have been clocked by radar, as well as visual sighting simultaneously. As we know by a simple law of physics, when an object moves rapidly through molecules of air, the friction causes a positive charge to be formed on the hull and by a simple law of electricity, we know that like poles repel and unlike poles attract. Thus by inducing a positive electrical charge within the machine when moving rapidly through the atmosphere, the molecules are repelled tending to produce a narrow band of vacuum around the moving hull reducing the friction.

By a simple law of sound, we know that if there were any noise associated with the object, the sound would not pass through the vacuum. Although a low humming noise is sometimes heard when UFO's are low and moving slowly or hovering.

The gravitational field also explains the sometimes cloud-like appearance especially when flying slowly and low when pacing a motor car as was experienced by drivers in the vicinity of Wonthaggi recently. The G-field would tend to hold mist vapour, smoke and dust to its surface.

The G-field explanation accounts for the reason radio and television interference is sometimes experienced when UFO's are in the area, such as occurred around Wonthaggi and South Dudley on the 19th September, 1963. Within a mile-wide area below the object, malfunctions in the T.V. sets varied considerably. There were white screens, grey screens, streaky with lines, or with lines and two pictures in one. Radio and television are usually the first devices to be affected.

Objects demonstrating all the above manifestations have occurred within a one hundred mile radius of Melbourne within the past ten months. The most recent sighting occurred as late as the 12th June, 1964, and was reported in the Free Press. The sightings, in the vicinity of Wonthaggi, were printed in The Sun and covered in detail by the Wonthaggi Express, during September and October, 1963. Similar sightings and experiences are occurring in all parts of the world.

Yet in spite of this dramatic succession of manifestations, the scientific world as a whole remains in deep dogmatic slumber.

Orthodox scientists have scoffed at the G-field explanation, but since its adoption by Dr. Hermann Oberth, the father of modern rocketry, inventor of the V2 and the professor who taught rocketry to Werner Von Braun, the sneers are beginning to fade from their dogmatic faces.

Even Einstein's theory required an atomic split to gain a small crack into the closed mind of orthodoxy. At times this crack appears to be widening, reluctantly, but widening nevertheless.

Orthodox science has come to realize only in the past two decades, that billions of planets exist in our galaxy alone, but only a few scientists will yet accept the simple law of mathematical odds, that life would find us first. Nor do they yet accept a simple law of life, that intelligent life does not sit around twiddling its thumbs unless retarded by dogmatism and there is nothing else left to do. Orthodoxy at its best is only the space between steps. The frequency of those steps is restricted by the resistance between.

Responsibility rests on the shoulders of all serious research groups and open-minded scientists, astronomers and other professional people, especially those who have observed the strange objects, to close ranks and lend their talents to meaningful scientific investigation and help solve the twentieth century's greatest mystery - UFO's - the riddle of the skies!

HALLAM SIGHTING.

At 5.55 p.m. on 12th June, 1964 a sighting of an unidentified saucer shaped object took place at Hallam, 25 miles east of Melbourne.

While travelling along Dandenong Road, five witnesses in two cars saw a stationary red light about 40 degrees above the horizon. On turning off onto Hallam Road, the light was still visible and the occupants of first car decided to stop in order to ascertain what it was.

At first they thought the light was supported by a tower, but a couple of minutes after they halted, the light accelerated abruptly and moved off in an easterly direction in front of them. At this stage an outline was just discernible and one witness interviewed described the object as "like a coin on its side", whilst another stated that the object was slightly domed on the top, but flat underneath. The brilliant red light was at the "front" of the object and a pale yellow light was noticed on the "rear". The object was estimated by one witness as being "about the same size as a Viscount airliner" and to have disappeared towards Melbourne at a speed "greater than a Jet".

At no time was any noise heard, or any electro-magnetic or physiological effects noted.

EVALUATION OF HALLAM SIGHTING 12/6/64.

In evaluating the above sighting several points can be mentioned to support its validity.

(a) The parents of both Mr. Preston and Miss Stevenson, although themselves very sceptical regarding UFO's, stated that they believed their children's reports to be factual in every regard.

(b) The reports of both witnesses differed in some minor details, sufficient, in my opinion, to suggest authenticity.

(c) The driver of the second car, who saw the red light but did not stop to investigate, was unwilling to be interviewed by me, and I subsequently discovered that he had suffered considerable embarrassment at work and in the local football club following the newspaper story covering the sighting.

(d) Lastly, having personally interviewed both principal witnesses, there is no doubt whatsoever in my mind that the reported observations of a UFO did take place as recorded.

Having thoroughly checked the sighting area there appears to be only one reason why a UFO should be interested in this particular place.

Less than one mile from the point where the UFO was seen to be hovering, the main transmission lines from the Morwell-Yallourn-Hazelwood power generating complex pass. These lines supply most of the power used in Melbourne and other areas.

I have been informed that if the supply carried by these lines was interrupted, Melbourne would be dependent on a relatively small amount of power from the Snowy Mountains hydro-electric system, Newport generating station, and a few other smaller schemes. The result would be to deprive Melbourne of most of its electric supply. This hypothesis is in line with theories advanced by Coral Lorenzen, Director of A.P.R.O., who cites cases of an apparent systematic reconnaissance by the UFO of terrestrial power and water supplies since 1959. She also cites many cases prior to that date which suggest a thorough military reconnaissance in her book "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax", which is available from our library.

Geoffrey S. Rumpf.
Sightings Investigation Officer.

BALLARAT CONFERENCE.

The Ballarat Astronomical Society has had the promise of co-operation from the research groups in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane to participate in the UFO gathering next year. It has been decided to hold the meeting on the last Saturday in February to coincide with the Begonia Festival, and the Astronomical Society is organising a week's display of instruments and projects. The Saturday will be devoted to the UFO., the conference being opened by the mayor at the Ballarat Observatory in the afternoon when the interesting assembly of scientists, ufologists and skeptics expected will meet socially. In the evening there will be slides, papers, and discussion in the city library.

As there was some critical response to our rather drab first cover, we have decided on a more eye-catching design. For designing this we are grateful to our member, Mr. M. P. Gellert. We hope the new cover meets with your approval; if not, let us know.

PERSONAL NEWS.

Our popular committee-woman, Miss Dorothy Gillman, was married to Mr. Graham Farmer, on Friday, 24th September last.

We wish the young couple every happiness and success in their future life together.

